

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

In the present Amendment, claims 1, 10, 15, and 17 have been amended and claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 1 and 3-19 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 15, and 17 are independent. The rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

Claims 1, 10, 15, and 17 have been amended to more fully comply with U.S. practice. Claim 1 has been amended to define an embodiment of the invention in which each of the application heads is provided with an application plate in which several glue outlet openings are each arranged equidistantly at a distance (A) on one line in a direction perpendicular to the feed direction of at least one of the sheets and the folds of the bases. The application plates are configured such that adjoining glue outlet openings of two different application heads are positionable at a smaller distance than the distance (A). Support for the instant recitation is found at, for example, page 7, third paragraph, third sentence of the original specification.

Entry of each of the amendments is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Kolbe, Boger, and Vijuk

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,913,764 to Kolbe et al. (hereinafter "Kolbe") and U.S. Patent No. 4,687,137 to Boger et al. ("Boger") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,044,873 to Vijuk.

The rejection of claims 1-17 under § 103(a) based on Kolbe, Boger, and Vijuk is respectfully deemed to be obviated. For at least the following reasons, the combined disclosures of Kolbe, Vijuk, and Boger would not have rendered obvious Applicants' presently claimed invention.

As indicated above in the introductory remarks, instant claim 1 defines an embodiment of the invention in which "each of the application heads being provided with an application plate in which several glue outlet openings are each arranged equidistantly at a distance (A) on one line in a direction perpendicular to the feed direction of at least one of the sheets and the folds of the bases, the application plates being configured such that adjoining glue outlet openings of two different application heads are positionable at a smaller distance than the distance (A)."

The combined disclosures of Kolbe, Vijuk, and Boger do not teach each feature of Applicants' presently claimed device. First, Applicants note that Vijuk only discloses *single* glue outlets (see Fig. 16, #45) of which at least one glue outlet can be

displaced relative to another glue outlet. Vijuk does not disclose at least two application heads of which each application head is provided with several glue valves and several glue outlets, and that at least one application head can be displaced relative to one another. It is clear that the glue outlets of Vijuk can only produce dots or lines of glue on the working piece.

The glue application heads of Applicants' invention, however, are able to produce approximately an area covering of glue on the working piece. Vijuk does not teach replacing a single glue outlet by an application head in order to obtain a sufficient area covering.

Second, Boger describes a single application head. Boger's application head has two halves 22, 24, but both of the two halves must be secured together by screws 23 in order to obtain one useable application head (see Boger, Figs. 6 and 7 and the respective specification). Inlet line 40 provides the glue outlets 38 with glue. In the same way, glue outlets 60 are provided by inlet line 52 with glue. Glue outlets 38 appear to be equidistant to each other and the glue outlets 60 also appear to be equidistant. The distance between two glue outlets 60 appears to be smaller than the distance between two glue outlets 38.

Boger's apparatus, therefore, is structurally different from Applicants' claimed invention, in which all glue outlets within one application plate have the same distance regardless of the glue valve (or inlet line) that provides the respective glue

outlet with glue. According to Boger (Fig. 6), the distance between a glue outlet 38 and the adjoining glue outlet 60 seems to be smaller than the distance between two adjoining glue outlets 38. However, this is different from Applicants' claimed invention, in which only two glue outlets of two different application plates can be positioned so that the adjoining glue outlets have a smaller distance than the distance (A). See specification page 7 for a description of some of the advantages of the aforementioned feature of Applicants' invention.

Accordingly, the combined disclosures of Kolbe, Boger, and Vijuk would not have rendered obvious the invention defined by Applicants' instant claim 1. Claims 3-14 are allowable because they depend from claim 1, and for other reasons. Independent claims 15 and 17 have been amended in a manner parallel to that of claim 1, and are similarly allowable.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Kolbe, Boger, Vijuk, and Colgan

Claims 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kolbe, Boger, and Vijuk and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,524,667 to Colgan.

The rejection of claims 18 and 19 under § 103(a) based on Kolbe, Boger, Vijuk, and Colgan is also respectfully deemed to be obviated. For at least the following reasons, the combined

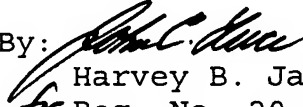
disclosures of Kolbe, Vijuk, Boger, and Colgan would not have rendered obvious Applicants' presently claimed invention.

Claims 18 and 19 both depend from claim 1. Claim 1 is allowable for the reasons explained above with respect to the rejection based on Kolbe, Boger, and Vijuk. Furthermore, regardless of what Colgan may disclose with regard to glue, that disclosure alone does not rectify any of the previously noted structural deficiencies of any of Kolbe, Vijuk, and Boger.

In view of the foregoing, this application is now in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes that an interview might expedite prosecution, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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